



Hello ZRA Members,

Registration details, including the call for presentations, will be available shortly. We encourage you to stay tuned for updates. For any inquiries, please reach out to:

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### **Conference at a Glance**

**Dates:** October 11–16, 2026

**Location:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- Pre-Conference Trip – Sunday
- Workshops & Icebreaker – Monday
- General Sessions & Flamingle –Tuesday
- General Sessions & Optional Event– Wednesday
- Business Meeting, Z-CAP & Zoo Day– Thursday
- Post-Conference Trip – Friday

### **What's New: Updated Conference Format**

Based on member feedback and a desire to maximize both learning and connection, we've made a few updates this year:

- More structured workshop time: Dedicated space for hands-on learning (ZIMS, Tracks, and AnimalCare) without competing sessions.
- Balanced scheduling: A clearer flow between sessions, networking, and events to reduce overlap and fatigue.
- Enhanced networking opportunities: Intentional social events like the Icebreaker and Flamingle are designed to strengthen member connections.
- Streamlined daily options: Easier planning so more members can attend.

- These changes are aimed at creating a more engaging, manageable, and valuable experience for all attendees.

### **Why Registration Rates Increased This Year**

As part of our commitment to delivering a high-quality conference experience, registration rates have been modestly increased for 2026. This adjustment reflects:

- Rising costs for venues, food & beverage, AV, and transportation
- Increased technology and platform expenses (including registration and payment systems)
- Expanded workshop offerings and professional development opportunities
- Ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of ZRA events

We've worked carefully to keep costs as low as possible while continuing to provide meaningful value and an engaging, high-impact conference experience for our members. The 2026 ZRA Annual Conference registration fees will be announced when registration opens.

The Draft Annual Conference Program will be available in July 2026. In the meantime, we will be providing promotional materials for events and educational opportunities planned for the conference. We hope this will assist you in securing your approval and funding to attend the conference.

We can't wait to see you there for a week of collaboration and connection with your fellow registrars!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Joann Watson  
Annual Conference Committee Chair